# EXHIBIT "1"

12/17/2021 9:23 AM

**SUMM** Scott L. Poisson, Esq. 2 Nevada Bar No. 10188 Amber N. King, Esq. 3 Nevada Bar No. 14070 **BERNSTEIN & POISSON** 700 S. Jones Blvd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 5 Telephone: (702) 877-4878 Facsimile: (702) 256-6280 6 Attorneys for Plaintiff 7 8 DISTRICT COURT 9 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 10 CASE NO: A-21-845580-C ELVIA WILLIAMS, an individual, 11 Dept. No.: Department 16 Plaintiff, 12 13 99 CENTS ONLY STORES, LLC **SUMMONS** 14 through 100; and ROE CORPORATION 101 through 200, inclusive, 15 Defendant(s). 16 17 99 Cents Only Stores, LLC. 18 19 NOTICE! YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. THE COURT MAY DECIDE AGAINST YOU WITHOUT YOUR BEING HEARD, UNLESS YOU RESPOND WITHIN 20 20 DAYS. READ THE INFORMATION BELOW. 21 A civil Complaint has been filed by the Plaintiff against TO THE DEFENDANT: 22 you for the relief set forth in the Complaint. 23 If you intend to defend this lawsuit, within 20 days after this Summons is 1. 24 served on you, exclusive of the day of the service you must do the following:

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a.

appropriate filing fee.

written response to the Complaint in accordance with the rules of the Court with the

File with the Clerk of this Court, whose address is shown below, a formal

Serve a copy of your response upon the attorney whose name and address b. 1 2 is shown below. 3 2. Unless you respond, your default will be entered upon application of the 4 Plaintiff and this Court may enter a judgment against you for the relief demanded in the 5 Complaint, which could result in the taking of your money or property, or other relief 6 requested in the Complaint. 7 3. If you intend to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should 8 do so promptly so that your response may be filed on time. 9 The State of Nevada, its political subdivisions, agencies, officers, 4. 10 employees, board members, commission members and legislators, each have 45 days 11 after service of this Summons within which to file an Answer or other responsive 12 pleading to the Complaint. 13 STEVEN D. GRIERSON 14 CLERK OF THE COURT Issued at the direction of: 15 12/20/2021 16 /s/ Ryan Kerbow, Esq. 17 Date RYAN KERBOW, ESQ. BERNSTEIN & POISSON County Courthouse 18 200 Lewis Avenue 320 S. Jones Boulevard Las Vegas, Nevada 89155 Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 19 Robyn Rodriguez Telephone: (702) 256-4566 20 Facsimile: (702) 256-6280 Attorney for Plaintiff. 21 NOTE: When service is by publication, add a brief statement of the object of the action. 22 See Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 4(b). 23 24 26 27

Bernstein & Poisson

**Electronically Filed** 12/17/2021 9:23 AM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COUR **COMP** Scott L. Poisson, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 10188 Amber N. King, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 14070 **BERNSTEIN & POISSON** CASE NO: A-21-845580-C 700 S. Jones Blvd. Department 16 Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 Telephone: (702) 877-4878

# EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

# **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

Case No.: ELVIA WILLIAMS, an individual, Dept. No.: Plaintiff,

99 CENTS ONLY STORES, LLC,; DOES 1 through 100; and ROE CORPORATION 101 through 200, inclusive,

Defendant(s).

# **COMPLAINT**

COMES NOW, the Plaintiff, by and through his counsel of record, BERNSTEIN & POISSON, submits this complaint against Defendants for the foregoing causes of action, and alleges as follows:

# **JURISDICTION**

- Elvia Williams, (hereinafter "Plaintiff") is individual residing in Clark County, 1. Nevada.
- 99 Cents Only Stores, LLC, is a limited liability company, doing business in 2. Clark County, Nevada.
- DOE and ROE Defendants 1 through 200 are legal entities/residents of Clark 3. County, Nevada, and authorized to do business by the State of Nevada. Furthermore, said Doe and Roe Defendants were employees, agents, or servants of Defendants in its control and

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functioned and assisted in the operation, control maintenance and/or management of the premise, in which plaintiff was injured, causing damages.

- 4. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate or otherwise of Defendants DOES 1 through 100 and ROE CORPORATIONS 101 through 200, inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiff who therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names; on information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that the Defendants, and each of them, designated herein as a DOE or ROE CORPORATION were responsible in some manner for the injuries sustained by the Plaintiff resulting from the below stated incident; and is liable for all damages due to Plaintiff as alleged herein. Plaintiff will ask leave of court to amend this Complaint to insert the true names and capacities when the same is ascertained and to join such Defendants in this action.
- DOES 1 through 5 are entities responsible for maintaining the property known as 5. 99 Cents Only Stores, located at 3258 North Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89115. DOES 6 through 10 are entities or individuals who maintained the floors subject to this incident at the property, 99 Cents Only Stores, located at 3258 North Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89115. DOES 11 through 15 are the entities or individuals responsible for cleaning the flooring subject to this incident at the property, 99 Cents Only Stores, located at 3258 North Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89115. DOES 16 through 20 are entities or individuals responsible for inspection of the flooring subject to this incident at the property, 99 Cents Only Stores, located at 3258 North Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89115.

# **CLAIM FOR NEGLIGENCE**

- Defendants are owners of the property that is subject to this incident, located at 99 6. Cents Only Stores, located at 3258 North Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89115 (hereinafter "the Property").
- On January 2, 2020, Elvia Williams was legally on the premise owned and 7. operated by Defendants.
- While Ms. Williams was walking through the store, she slipped and fell on a 8. banana.

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- 9. Defendants were in charge of maintaining the common areas of the Property.
- 10. The aisle of the store where Ms. Williams fell was in the common area.
- Defendants had a duty to properly maintain the common area and provide an 11. area that was safe for use.
- Defendants breached their duty by failing to maintain and provide a clean floor 12. free from debris.
- Defendants, and each of them, had a duty to supervise and maintain said premises 13. in a reasonably safe and suitable condition for its patrons, guests and invitees; and further to take any and all reasonable precautions to avoid the presence of dangerous conditions on or around said premises.
- Defendants had a duty to inspect and maintain the common area in a safe and 14. reasonable manner to ensure safe use of floor.
- Defendants breached their duty by failing to maintain the floor and ensure its safe 15. use and operation.
- Defendants and their employees knew or should have known about the dangerous 16. condition, which caused the injuries to Plaintiff, yet continued to let this condition exist, causing an unreasonable threat to the safety of those on their property, including Plaintiff.
- Defendants allowed the dangerous condition to exist for an extended period of 17. time by negligently allowing the floor to be improperly maintained, installed, and safe.
- 18. Defendants, and each of them, known and unknown, breached these duties, directly and proximately causing Plaintiff's injuries.
- Defendants, despite having actual notice or constructive notice, upon a reasonable 19. inspection of its premises, that a dangerous condition existed. Defendants, failed to cure the same, enact proper safeguards, or warn of same to prevent serious bodily injury to Plaintiff, all in breach of its duty of due care herein.
- Defendant's negligence was the actual and proximate cause of physical injury to 20. Elvia Williams.

21.	Elvia Williams incurred medical expenses, wage loss, loss of household services
pain and suffe	ring, as a result of this incident.

22. This incident caused Plaintiff to suffer severe injuries and damages in an amount in excess of \$15,000.00 subject to proof at trial, and Plaintiff will continue to suffer from her injuries in the future.

# **DEMAND FOR JUDGMENT**

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff reserving her right individually or through his representatives, to amend his Complaint prior to, or at the time of trial of this action to insert those items of damage not yet fully ascertainable, pray for judgment against said Defendants, and each of them as follows:

- 1) For General and Special Damages in a sum in excess of \$15,000.00;
- 2) For Attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein;
- 3) For interest at the statutory rate; and
- 4) For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and equitable in the matter.

DATED this 17th day of December 17, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

## **BERNSTEIN & POISSON**

/s/ Amber N. King, Esq.
SCOTT L. POISSON, ESQ.
State Bar No. 010188
AMBER N. KING, ESQ.
State Bar No.14070
700 S. Jones Blvd.
Las Vegas, Nevada 89107
(T) (702) 877-4878
(F) (702) 256-6280
Email: amber@vegashurt.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff

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LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89119 139 E. WARM SPRINGS RD.

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	2.	Answering Paragraph 2 of Plaintiff's Complaint on file herein, Defendant admits	th		
allegations contained therein.					

3. Answering Paragraphs 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 22 of Plaintiff's Complaint on file herein, Defendant denies the allegations contained therein. Answering Paragraph 19 of Plaintiff's Complaint on file herein, "Defendants, despite having actual notice or constructive notice, upon a reasonable inspection of its premises, that a dangerous condition existed.", Defendant denies the allegations contained therein. As to "Defendants, failed to cure the same, enact proper safeguards, or ward of same to prevent serious bodily injury to Plaintiff, all in breach of its duty of due care herein", Defendant is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the said allegations and therefore denies same.

# AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

# FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's Complaint fails to state a claim against Defendant upon which relief can be granted.

# SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Defendant alleges that at the time and place alleged in Plaintiff's Complaint, Plaintiff did not exercise ordinary care, caution or prudence for the protection of herself and any damages complained of by the Plaintiff in her Complaint, were directly or proximately caused or contributed to by the fault, failure to act, carelessness and negligence of Plaintiff.

# THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Defendant alleges that the Plaintiff assumed whatever risk or hazard existed at the time of this incident, if any there were, and was therefore responsible for the alleged damage suffered and further that the Plaintiff was guilty of negligence of her own acts which caused or contributed to by the fault, failure to act, carelessness or negligence of Plaintiff.

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# FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

All the risks and dangers involved in the factual situation described in Plaintiff's Complaint, if any there were, were open, obvious and known to the Plaintiff and by reason thereof, Plaintiff assumed the risks and dangers inherent thereto.

# FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Defendant alleges that the negligence of the Plaintiff exceeded that of the Defendant, and that the Plaintiff is thereby barred from recovery.

# SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Pursuant to NRCP 11, as amended: All possible affirmative defenses may not have been alleged herein insofar as sufficient facts were not available after reasonable inquiry upon the filing of Defendant's Answer, and therefore, Defendant reserves the right to amend this Answer to allege additional affirmative defenses if subsequent investigation warrants.

# SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The damages sustained by Plaintiff, if any, were caused by the acts of third persons who were not agents, servants or employees of this answering Defendant and who were not acting on behalf of this answering Defendant in any manner or form and as such, this Defendant is not liable in any matter to the Plaintiff.

# EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Defendant at all times relevant to the allegations contained in Plaintiff's Complaint, acted with due care and circumspection in the performance of any and all duties imposed on it.

# NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

That it has been necessary of the Defendant to employ the services of an attorney to defend the action and a reasonable sum should be allowed Defendant for attorney's fees, together with costs of suit incurred herein.

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# TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff has failed to mitigate her alleged damages, and, to the extent of such failure to mitigate any damages awarded to Plaintiff, should be reduced accordingly.

# **ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

Plaintiff's claims are barred by applicable statutes of limitations.

# TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Defendant objects as to authentication, foundation and genuineness of all of Plaintiff's medical providers and documents listed or presented by Plaintiff.

WHEREFORE, Defendant, 99 CENTS ONLY STORES, LLC, prays as follows:

- 1. That Plaintiff take nothing by way of her Complaint on file herein;
- 2. For reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit incurred herein;
- 3. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper in the premises.

DATED this 6th day of January, 2022.

# **BRANDON | SMERBER LAW FIRM**

/s/ Lew Brandon, Jr., Esq. LEW BRANDON, JR., ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 5880 ANDREW GUZIK, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 12758 HOMERO GONZALEZ, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 15231 139 E. Warm Springs Road Las Vegas, Nevada 89119 (702) 384-8424 (702) 384-6568 - facsimile Attorneys for Defendant, 99 CENTS ONLY STORES, LLC

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# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I hereby certify that on January 6, 2022, I served the foregoing

# DEFENDANT 99 CENTS ONLY STORES, LLC'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S

**COMPLAINT** through the Court's ECF electronic filing system, upon the following:

SCOTT L. POISSON, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 10188

AMBER N. KING, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 14070

**BERNSTEIN & POISSON** 

700 S. Jones Blvd.

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Attorneys for Plaintiff,

ELVIA WILLIAMS

/s/ Bonita Alexander

An Employee of BRANDON | SMERBER LAW FIRM

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139 E. WARM SPRINGS RD.

139 E. WARM SPRINGS RD.

139 E. WARM SPRINGS RD. LAS VECAS, NEVADA 89119

> Attorneys for Plaintiff, ELVIA WILLIAMS

amber@vegashurt.com

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/s/ Bonita Alexander

An Employee of BRANDON | SMERBER LAW FIRM

**Electronically Filed** 1/25/2022 12:40 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT 1 ROST SCOTT POISSON, ESQ. 2 Nevada Bar No. 10188 AMBER N. KING, ESQ. 3 Nevada Bar No. 14070 **BERNSTEIN & POISSON** 4 320 South Jones Boulevard Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 5 Telephone: (702) 877-4878 6 Attorneys for Plaintiff 7 EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT 8 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 9 Case No.: A-21-845580-C ELVIA WILLIAMS, an individual, 10 Dept. No.: 16 Plaintiff, 11 V. 12 320 S. Jones Blvd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 OFFICE: (702) 877-4878 FAX: (702) 256-6280 REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM 99 CENTS ONLY STORES, LLC.; DOES 1 13 Bernstein & Poisson through 100; and ROE CORPORATION 101 ARBITRATION through 200, inclusive, 14 Defendant(s). 15 16 Plaintiff hereby requests the above entitled matter be exempted from arbitration pursuant 17 to Nevada Arbitration Rules 3 and 5 as this case: 18 presents a significant issue of public policy; 19 involves an amount in issue in excess of \$50,000.00, exclusive of interest and 20 costs: presents unusual circumstances which constitute good cause for removal from 21 the program. 22 A summary of the specific facts which supports Plaintiffs' request for exemption is as follows: 23 111 24 /// 25 III26 /// 27 /// 28 Page 1 of 4

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### I. **FACTS**

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On October 7, 2020, Elvia was lawfully and properly walking at the Defendant's premises when she slipped and fell on a banana on the ground. There was no warning signs or cones cautioning the public of the foreign substance. As a result of the fall, the Plaintiff was injured.

### II. INJURIES AND MEDICAL TREATMENT

Ms. Williams presented to the Las Vegas Pain Institute with complains of pain to her back that radiated down her tailbone and legs. She was prescribed prescription medication, referred for further diagnostic studies, and was referred to neurological specialists.

She presented to Las Vegas Neurosurgery where she was recommended and underwnt EMG/NCV studies and was instructed to continue with her physical and chiropractic therapy and her pain management.

With her pain and symptoms failing to subside she returned to Las Vegas Pain institute who recommended she undergo injections and rhiztomoties in an attempt to resolve her pain and symptoms.

As a result of your insured's negligence, our client has had to suffer greatly emotionally and physically. The injuries that she sustained interfered greatly with her responsibilities and overall life enjoyment. Patricia continues to suffer and will have to live with pain for the rest of her life because of your insured's negligence.

A listing of Ms. Williams medical expenses are below:

### III. **MEDICAL SPECIALS**

Las Vegas Neurosurgery	\$ 1,010.00
Las Vegas Pain Institute	\$ 62,737.40
Spring Valley Surgery Center	\$ 127,097.60
Las Vegas Neurology Center	\$ 1,715.00
Steinberg Diagnostics	\$ 854.00
TOTAL	\$ 193,414.00

# Bernstein & Poisson

320 S. Jones Blvd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 OFFICE: (702) 877-4878 FAX: (702) 256-6280

# IV. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

Defendant has a probable jury award value in excess of \$50,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs. Plaintiffs, therefore, respectfully request that this action be exempted from arbitration.

I hereby certify pursuant to N.R.C.P. 11, that this case is within the exemption marked above and I am aware of the sanctions, which may be imposed against any attorney or party who without good cause or justification attempts to remove a case from the arbitration program.

DATED this 25th day of January 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

# **BERNSTEIN & POISSON**

/s/ Amber N. King
SCOTT L. POISSON, ESQ.
State Bar No. 10188
AMBER N. KING, ESQ.
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/s/ Sabina Demelas
An employee of Bernstein & Poisson